United Nations S/2002/941

Security Council

Distr.: General
19 August 2002
English
Original: French

Letter dated 19 August 2002 from the Permanent Representative of the Democratic Republic of the Congo to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

On instructions from my Government, I regret to have to draw your attention to the large-scale military operations which Rwanda has been conducting for several days in the Congolese province of South Kivu.

The Rwandan Patriotic Army has attacked and besieged the areas of Lulimba, Kilembwe, Salamabila, Kazimya and Nzovu, in flagrant violation of the ceasefire providing the framework for the entire thrust of the Pretoria Agreement. Even now, the Rwandan Patriotic Army is continuing its offensive and its deployment.

The immediate consequence of this fierce fighting is yet another humanitarian crisis for the Congolese population of Kivu, who for over four years have been bearing the brunt of the Rwandan occupation. The Congolese, who are moving en masse to flee the theatre of military operations, have been left to fend for themselves.

Nothing, not even the fresh pretexts being invoked by the Rwandan authorities, could justify this recent carnage.

In the statement by the President of 15 August 2002 (S/PRST/2002/24), the Security Council welcomed the Peace Agreement of 30 July 2002 between my Government and the Government of Rwanda, as well as the Implementation Programme for the withdrawal of Rwandan troops from the territory of the Democratic Republic of the Congo and the dismantling of the ex-FAR and Interahamwe forces in the territory of the Democratic Republic of the Congo (S/2002/914).

My Government calls on the Security Council:

1. To note that Rwanda's attitude violates both the spirit and the letter of the Pretoria Agreement;

2. To condemn emphatically these new Rwandan operations in the territory of the Democratic Republic of the Congo, which claim as their first victims women, children and other civilians;

3. To remind Rwanda of its obligations under the Pretoria Peace Agreement and the Implementation Programme;

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4. To demand that Rwanda comply strictly with Security Council resolutions 1304 (2000) and 1341 (2001).

My Government calls on the Security Council to take action on this matter, and would be grateful if this letter could be circulated as a Council document.

(*Signed*) Atoki **Ileka**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative